

From: Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US
Sent: 2/23/2012 2:34:50 PM
To: David Sternberg/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
CC:
Subject: Fw: Most recent Desk Statements on Dimock

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To: Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
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Date: 02/21/2012 11:09 AM
Subject: Most recent Desk Statements on Dimock

Statement finalized on Jan. 26 in response to Cabot Allegations

EPA is in this community sampling and providing water as a direct result of requests from Dimock residents. Our priority is the health of the people there, and our actions are guided entirely by science and the law. We are providing water to a handful of households because data developed by Cabot itself provides evidence that they are being exposed to hazardous substances at levels of health concern. We are conducting monitoring as a prudent step to investigate these concerns and develop a sound scientific basis for assessing the need for further action. This is consistent with steps we would take in any situation where we are presented with potential health risks to citizens under the federal laws we are charged to carry out.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama made clear that he is committed to tapping America's natural gas as part of a new era in American energy. He also affirmed our commitment to "developing this resource without putting the health and safety of our citizens at risk."

We have been clear that if we see an immediate threat to public health, we will not hesitate to take steps under the law to protect Americans whose health may be at risk. The Agency also welcomes PADEP and Cabot's participation in the sampling. Without a doubt, EPA's samples will be collected and reviewed using the highest scientific standards and we will take into account all other relevant and reliable data developed by PADEP and Cabot. The residents in Dimock deserve answers based on the facts, and we look forward to working together to meet our responsibility to this community.

Statement we sent to a reporter on Jan. 19

We believe further data is needed to get a more complete picture of the water quality situation in these homes. EPA will conduct its own sampling at 61 homes. Our actions will be based on the science and the law and we will work to help get a more complete picture of water quality for these homes in Dimock. EPA has also reached out to the state Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot Oil and Gas Corp to offer them the opportunity to join EPA in the sampling.

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